

RailAmerica Operations Support Group, Inc.



® A RailAmerica Company

February 23, 2011

Eastern Headquarters
2 Federal Street, Suite 201
St. Albans, VT 05478
Tel: 802.527.3434
Fax: 802.527.3476

To: Whom It May Concern, CT General Assembly

RE: Written Testimony Submission concerning Proposed Bill No. 875

As the owner and operator of the Connecticut Southern Railroad Company (CSO), we would like to provide testimony concerning this bill to authorize state bonds for the construction of a catwalk over the rail line separating the Columbus Circle Area from McAuliffe Park in East Hartford.

This project involves the replacement of a failing pedestrian overpass that crosses above our railroad main track. The current structure is in disrepair. While we support the State of Connecticut's efforts to provide a safe pedestrian crossing over our right of way, we would like to bring these concerns to your attention:

The existing structure seemed to see little actual use. Pedestrians cut holes into the right of way fence and simply walked across our tracks (trespassing and presenting a safety concern to them as well as our employees.) Vegetation has been allowed to grow out of control and can present a site distance issue for approaching trains. If the structure is replaced, we would like a commitment that the structure and associated fencing and vegetation control will be maintained in order to avoid a repeat situation.

The CSO will need to be involved in the design plans in order to assure proper height and side clearances as well as address safety concerns during the construction and ongoing use.

We look forward to working together on this project to provide a safe structure for both pedestrians and our railroad operations.

Sincerely,

Charles D. Hunter
A.V.P. Government Affairs